

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1110
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AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 8093

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJ: SPEECH BY MS. MATHEA FALCO TO NARCOTICS CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS TEXT (PREPARED BY USIS) OF
EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEECH DELIVERED TO EA REGIONAL NARCOTICS
CONFERENCE IN BANGKOK, APRIL 14, BY MS. MATHEA FALCO,
COORDINATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL. SPEECH
IS ENTITLED, "A PERSPECTIVE FROM WASHINGTON: THE
NARCOTICS COORDINATOR." END SUMMARY.

1. AS YOU KNOW, I AM RECENTLY APPOINTED TO THIS JOB OF
SENIOR ADVISOR. THE DAY I WAS APPOINTED, FEBRUARY 4, I
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DEPARTED DIRECTLY FOR GENEVA, WHERE I WAS THE US REPRESENTATIVE AT THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS MEETINGS. THE MEETINGS LASTED THREE WEEKS; I WILL REVIEW JUST A FEW POINTS THAT I THINK MAY BE OF INTEREST TO ALL OF YOU. FIRST, THE VERY REAL AWARENESS ON THE PART OF MANY COUNTRIES, WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AS WELL AS SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES, OF THE RAPIDLY INCREASING DRUG PROBLEMS WHICH THEY FACE WITHIN THEIR OWN BORDERS. DOCTOR BOURNE AND THE AMBASSADOR HAVE MENTIONED THIS BEFORE. I FELT THAT IT WAS A VERY ENCOURAGING SIGN, PARTICULARLY IF WE ARE GOING TO

BEGIN TO APPROACH THE DRUG PROBLEM AS NOT JUST AN AMERICAN ONE, BUT ONE THAT REQUIRES TRULY INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

2. ONE OF THE MAJOR ISSUES THAT WAS DISCUSSED DURING THE COMMISSION MEETINGS WAS THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL WHICH IS, AT LEAST POTENTIALLY, A VEHICLE FOR VERY EFFECTIVE MULTI-LATERAL ASSISTANCE TO A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES IN IMPROVING THEIR NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS. AS I'M SURE YOU KNOW, THE UNITED STATES IS FAR AND AWAY THE LARGEST SINGLE CONTRIBUTOR TO THE FUND. THAT IS OF GREAT CONCERN TO MANY OF US IN THE GOVERNMENT AND IN PARTICULAR TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES IN THE CONGRESS. WE'VE STRESSED VERY MUCH THE NEED FOR OTHER COUNTRIES TO TRANSLATE THEIR INCREASED AWARENESS OF THEIR OWN DRUG PROBLEMS INTO INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND, AND ALREADY WE HAVE SOME HOPEFUL SIGNS THAT DURING THIS COMING YEAR THERE MAY WELL BE SOME SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS PARTICULARLY FROM THE NORDIC COUNTRIES.

3. ANOTHER MAJOR ISSUE THAT WAS COVERED DURING THE COMMISSION AND WHICH DR. BOURNE HAS ALREADY TOUCHED ON WAS THE CONSIDERATION OF COMMERCIAL CULTIVATION OF THE THEBANE POPPY. THIS CAME UP PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO THE PENDING PROPOSAL BEFORE OUR DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION TO PERMIT SUCH CULTIVATION IN OUR COUNTRY. A NUMBER OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT THE COMMISSION EXPRESSED VERY UNCLASSIFIED

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STRONG OPPOSITION TO ANY SUCH COMMERCIAL CULTIVATION. THE DEBATE LASTED FOR SEVERAL DAYS, INDEED, AND DURING THE PUBLIC HEARINGS WHICH DEA SUBSEQUENTLY HELD ON THE BRACTEAUM ISSUE, I CONVEYED THE VIEWS OF THE FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND, AS DR. BOURNE INDICATED, IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT AT THIS TIME THE UNITED STATES WILL UNDERTAKE COMMERCIAL THEBANE POPPY CULTIVATION. I THINK PERHAPS THAT SOME OF YOUR GOVERNMENTS IN YOUR HOST COUNTRIES ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN THAT ISSUE WHICH IS ONE REASON I TOUCHED ON IT.

4. A THIRD AND VERY IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE COMMISSION'S WORK AT THESE MEETINGS WAS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT LAST AUGUST UPON RATIFICATION BY 41 COUNTRIES. THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT YET RATIFIED THE CONVENTION. I BELIEVE, AND I KNOW THAT OTHERS IN OUR GROUP SHARE THIS BELIEF, THAT FOR THE UNITED STATES CREDIBILITY IN THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORT, WE MUST MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO RATIFY THAT CONVENTION SINCE SO MANY-- ESPECIALLY OF THE LESSER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES--PERCEIVE THE PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES PROBLEM TO BE THEIR MAIN ONE, RATHER THAN THE OPIUM-BASED DRUGS WHICH WE SPEND SO MUCH OF OUR CONCERN ON. AND I AM VERY HOPEFUL THAT DURING THIS YEAR--BY THE END OF 1977 AND CERTAINLY BEFORE I RETURN TO

THE COMMISSION IN GENEVA NEXT FEBRUARY--WE WILL HAVE RATIFIED
THE CONVENTION. WE'RE ALL GOING TO WORK VERY HARD ON THAT.

5. WHEN I RETURNED FROM THE GENEVA MEETINGS AT THE END OF
FEBRUARY, THE FIRST PRIORITY REALLY FOR ME AND FOR MY ENTIRE
STAFF AND FOR OUR INTER-AGENCY GROUP WHICH MEETS REGULARLY
WAS TO TAKE A VERY CAREFUL LOOK AT OUR INTERNATIONAL
NARCOTICS PROGRAMS AROUND THE WORLD. AS YOU KNOW, OUR
SINGLE LARGEST PROGRAM IS IN MEXICO, AND THIS YEAR WE HAVE
REQUESTED OF THE CONGRESS AN APPROPRIATION OF SLIGHTLY MORE
THAN TEN MILLION DOLLARS TO CONTINUE TO ASSIST THE MEXICAN
GOVERNMENT IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ERADICATE POPPY CULTIVATION
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THROUGH THE USE OF AERIAL SPRAYED HERBICIDES AND TO
INCREASE THEIR INTERDICTION EFFORTS OF THE ILLICIT TRAFFIC.
THUS FAR, WE DO SEEM TO HAVE SOME ENCOURAGING SIGNS. PETER
BENSINGER AND DAN CASEY WILL TELL US PROBABLY OF SLIGHT
DECREASES IN PURITY LEVELS OF STREET HEROIN, INCREASE IN
PRICES OF RAW OPIUM IN MEXICO. I THINK AGAIN THAT PROGRESS
SOMETIMES IN OUR AREA IS SLOW.

6. I HOPE VERY MUCH THAT BY THE END OF THE YEAR WE WILL
HAVE SOME VERY SIGNIFICANT SIGNS THAT THE MEXICAN PROGRAM IS
BEGINNING TO HAVE SOME IMPACT ON THE ENORMOUS INFLUX
OF HEROIN ACROSS THOSE BORDERS INTO THE UNITED STATES,
I'M SURE YOU ALL KNOW THAT PRESENT ESTIMATES PLACE MEXICAN
HEROIN AT ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF OUR DOMESTIC HEROIN PROBLEM
AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN HEROIN AT ABOUT TEN PERCENT.
WHITEHOUSE

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7. OUR SECOND LARGEST GROUP OF PROGRAMS, OF COURSE, ARE THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN PROGRAMS. WE FEEL VERY STRONGLY THAT AS THE MEXICAN SITUATION IMPROVES AND AS WE SEE INCREASINGLY DRAMATIC DROPS IN THE AVAILABILITY OF MEXICAN BROWN, IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT WE WILL SEE INCREASES IN THE IMPORTATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN HEROIN. AT THE PRESENT TIME, OF COURSE, MOST OF THAT SEEMS TO BE COMING INTO EUROPE--MOST OF THE EXCESS THAT IS NOT ABSORBED BY LOCAL MARKETS SEEMS TO BE COMING INTO WESTERN EUROPE. THAT SITUATION, OF COURSE, COULD CHANGE DRAMCTICALLY AS THE MARKET SHIFTS AND AS OUR OWN SUPPLIES FROM MEXICO DWINDLE. WE SAW A SIMILAR KIND OF SHIFT WHEN THE FRENCH CONNECTION AND THE TURKISH OPIUM CULTIVATION WERE STOPEED SEVERAL YEARS AGO, AND I'M SURE UNCLASSIFIED

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YOU ALL REMEMBER THAT WELL. SO OUR PROGRAMS HERE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA ARE CRUCIAL, ESPECIALLY AS WE LOOK DOWN THE NEXT TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE YEARS. AND THAT IS ONE REASON WHY I AM SO GLAD TO BE OUT HERE, TO BE MEETING WITH ALL OF YOU. AND LET ME STRESS AGAIN THAT I AM VERY NEW. I HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY WELL-BRIEFED. I HAVE VERY GOOD TEACHERS, BUT I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING YOUR OWN PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS.

8. AS PART OF MY LEARNING EXPERIENCE I HAVE JUST SPENT THREE DAYS IN BURMA WITH DR. BOURNE WHERE WE HAD A VERY INTERESTING AND THOROUGH EXPOSURE TO THE BURMESE ERADICATION PROGRAM AND INTERDICTION PROGRAM AND SAW A NUMBER OF AREAS IN THE COUNTRY WHERE THE PROGRAM IS TAKING PLACE. TO ADD MORE STATISTICS TO THE DISCUSSION, ALTHOUGH I KNOW YOU'VE PROBABLY HAD YOUR FILL ALREADY, LET ME JUST TELL YOU THAT THE FIGURES THAT WE HAVE BEEN GETTING FROM BURMA APPEAR TO BE VERY ENCOURAGING.

9. OPIUM PRODUCTION IN BURMA IN THE 1974-75 PERIOD SHOWS A DRAMATIC DECREASE. NOW IN TERMS OF THE POPPY CROP DESTRUCTION WHICH AS YOU KNOW THEY DO MANUALLY WITH STICKS AS OPPOSED TO HERBICIDES, AS IS DONE IN THE MEXICAN PROGRAM, IN THE LAST TWO YEARS IN TERMS OF OPIUM EQUIVALENT FROM POPPY CROP DESTRUCTIONS IT'S AN ESTIMATED 100 TONS.

10. WE ARE VERY HOPEFUL ALSO IN THAT THE DELIVERIES OF BURMESE OPIUM TO THE THAI BORDERS ARE ALSO SHOWING VERY GREAT REDUCTIONS, APPROXIMATELY A 40 PERCENT REDUCTION FROM 1975 TO 1976. NOW I AM FULLY AWARE THAT THE BURMESE

CAPACITY--OPIUM PRODUCTION CAPACITY--IS VERY GREAT AND THAT INDEED THE AREA OF CONTROL WHICH THEY CAN EXERCISE OVER THAT POPPY CROP IS UNFORTUNATELY SOMEWHAT LIMITED. BUT AT THIS POINT WE ARE VERY ENCOURAGED WITH THE COMMITMENT OF THAT GOVERNMENT TO THIS EFFORT.

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11. HERE IN THAILAND, WE ALSO HAVE REQUESTED FROM THE CONGRESS ANOTHER TWO MILLION DOLLARS FOR THIS COMING FISCAL YEAR TO CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS AT INTERDICTION AND TO CONTINUE THE WORK WITH THE CROP REPLACEMENT PROGRAMS UP IN THE NORTH. I PLAN TO VISIT THERE NEXT WEEK TO SEE FOR MYSELF HOW THESE PROGRAMS ARE GOING. THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT AREA OF ACTIVITY, OF COURSE, FOR THE UNITED NATIONS FUND, AND WHEN WE WERE IN BURMA WE ALSO MET WITH THE UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVE WHO IS WORKING ON THE CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMS THERE.

12. IN REFERENCE TO THE EARLIER COMMENTS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF CROP SUBSTITUTION AND THE NEED FOR THOSE NOT TO GO ON JUST IN ISOLATION, ONE OF THE THINGS WE WOULD LIKE TO DO IS TO WORK THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND PERHAPS EVEN THROUGH AID PLANNING PROCESSES TO SEE WHETHER MARKETING TECHNIQUES, THE BUILDING OF ROADS, THE PERIPHERAL KINDS OF ACTIVITIES THAT ARE NECESSARY TO MAKE CROP SUBSTITUTION A SUCCESSFUL, VIABLE ALTERNATIVE INCOME FOR THE GROWER--THAT IS SOMETHING THAT WE ARE GOING TO BE FOCUSING ON VERY GREATLY.

13. NOW JUST TOUCHING BRIEFLY ON OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR TOTAL NARCOTICS PROGRAM: IN AFGHANISTAN WE ARE HOPING TO DEVELOP SOME PROGRAMS THERE PRIMARILY THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS FUND, AND WE HAVE A TEAM GOING--I THINK NEXT WEEK--TO BE TALKING WITH AFGHAN OFFICIALS. WE ALSO HAVE A PROGRAM IN PAKISTAN WHICH I'M SURE YOU'RE AWARE OF THROUGH THE NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD THERE, AND WE HAVE A TEAM OUT THERE RIGHT NOW WORKING TO MAKE SURE THAT THE PROGRAM IS WORKING AS EFFECTIVELY AS IT CAN. UNFORTUNATELY THERE ARE SOME POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES RIGHT NOW IN PAKISTAN WHICH MAKES THINGS SOMEWHAT MORE DIFFICULT.

14. NOW, COCAINE: SOUTH AMERICA, WE HAVE A NUMBER OF PROGRAMS IN SOUTH AMERICA, TOTALLY ABOUT SEVEN MILLION
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DOLLARS A YEAR. MOST OF THAT PROGRAM IS DIRECTED AT TRYING TO INCREASE LOCAL ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS AGAINST THE COCAINE TRAFFIC. WE ARE GOING TO BE TAKING A VERY CAREFUL LOOK AT THESE PROGRAMS AS WE ARE DOING IN ALL THE REGIONS OF THE

WORLD TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY ARE BEING EFFECTIVELY RUN AND SEE THAT THEIR GOALS ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE OVERALL NATIONAL GOALS WHICH WE ARE DEVELOPING IN TERMS OF DRUG POLICY.

15. FINALLY, LET ME SAY VERY QUICKLY THAT ONE AREA IN WHICH MY PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN VERY INVOLVED IN THE PAST BUT WHICH WE HOPE TO SEE EXPANDED SIGNIFICANTLY THIS YEAR AND IN THE FUTURE IS ON THE DEMAND REDUCTION SIDE. BOB DUPONT WILL BE TALKING MORE ABOUT THAT AS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE EQUATION; WE HAVE BEEN FOCUSING A GREAT DEAL OF ENERGY ON REDUCING SUPPLY. WE ALSO FEEL THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO WORK ON DEMAND, AND PARTICULARLY TO RESPOND TO THE VERY REAL NEEDS IN A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND DEMONSTRATION INITIAL START-UP PROJECTS, SO THAT THEY CAN BEGIN TO TREAT THEIR OWN ADDICT POPULATIONS. WE VISITED TWO SUCH HOSPITALS IN BURMA--THEY ARE IN THE VERY INITIAL STAGES. IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE IS MUCH THAT WE CAN DO TO HELP THEM. WE HAVE THAT EXPERTISE WHICH CAN BE SHARED.

16. I KNOW THAT HERE IN BANGKOK WE ARE HOPING TO BEGIN A PROGRAM WITH THE THAIS FOR DETOXIFICATION CENTERS. THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT SIDE OF OUR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM AND I URGE YOU ALL TO THINK ABOUT IT IN THE CONTEXT OF YOUR OWN WORK.

17. LET ME JUST SAY, REALLY IN CONCLUSION, THAT I THINK THAT YOUR ROLES ARE CRUCIAL, ABSOLUTELY CRUCIAL, TO THE SUCCESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM. WE SIT IN WASHINGTON, WE MEET WITH EACH OTHER, WE DISCUSS POLICY, WE REVIEW PROGRAM BUDGETS, WE TALK ABOUT INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION AND WE'RE VERY HOPEFUL THAT THIS NEW ADMINISTRATION WILL
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BE ABLE TO BRING A COORDINATED, RESPONSIVE PROGRAM TO BEAR ON THIS VERY IMPORTANT PROBLEM. BUT WITHOUT YOU IN THE FIELD TELLING US, AND PARTICULARLY TELLING ME, WHAT THE REALITIES ARE THAT YOU SEE VERY DAY--WHAT THE FELT NEEDS ARE BOTH IN SUPPLY CONTROL AND DEMAND REDUCTION--HOW OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UN EFFORTS COULD BE IMPROVED. HOW WE COULD BECOME MORE INVOLVED PERHAPS IN THE USE OF UN DEVELOPMENT MONEY. HOW WE CAN COORDINATE OUR EFFORTS BETTER WITH OTHER COUNTRIES WHO ARE CONCERNED. PLEASE LET ME KNOW. YOU ARE REALLY THE KEY TO SUCCESS AND I LOOK FORWARD VERY MUCH TO GETTING TO KNOW YOU ON THIS TRIP AND ON SUBSEQUENT TRIPS.
WHITEHOUSE

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